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October 8, 2019

TO: The Honorable Tony Evers, Governor  
Jeffrey Renk, Chief Clerk, Wisconsin State Senate  
Patrick E. Fuller, Chief Clerk, Wisconsin State Assembly

FROM: Ray Cross, President, University of Wisconsin System *RC*

RE: 2017-19 Biennial Report required under s. 36.65 Wisconsin Statutes

In accordance with Section 15.04(1)(d), Wisconsin Statutes, and Department of Administration (DOA) instructions, the University of Wisconsin System is pleased to present you with its annual accountability information to fulfill its 2017-19 Biennial Report requirement. As per DOA instructions, agencies that publish an annual report may submit that report as the required biennial report.

The UW System's 2018 legislated accountability information has been developed based upon requirements in Chapter 36.65. This information is currently delivered via the UW System Accountability Dashboard, found at <https://www.wisconsin.edu/accountability/>. This website also contains supplemental materials on accountability measures not suitable to the dashboard format. Together with the dashboard, a wealth of data is available about our academic and operational performance.

In addition to the Accountability Dashboard, the UW System is providing links to information on two major initiatives. The first is our strategic framework, 2020FWD, and its current implementation phase, <https://www.wisconsin.edu/2020FWD/>. The second is the restructuring of UW Colleges and UW-Extension with regional comprehensive campuses and UW System Administration to increase access, affordability, and opportunity so the UW System is in a better position to address state workforce needs. To learn more about the restructuring project and to see updates, please visit this link: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/uw-restructure/>.

The UW System strategic planning process focused on developing human, intellectual, and social capital across the state of Wisconsin. It resulted in four key tenets: educational pipeline, business and community mobilization, university experience, and operational excellence. The 2020FWD framework helped form the basis of UW System's 2019-21 biennial budget request. Implementation of the 2020FWD framework continues to ensure the most effective and efficient alignment of limited resources with UW System priorities and responsibilities.

Finally, as of July 1, 2018, the restructuring of the former UW Colleges and UW-Extension was officially approved and made effective by the Higher Learning Commission. A map of the institutions after restructuring can be found here: [https://www.wisconsin.edu/news/download/Map\\_NewUWSystemStructure\\_2018-07-01.pdf](https://www.wisconsin.edu/news/download/Map_NewUWSystemStructure_2018-07-01.pdf). This initiative, prompted by declining enrollments and statewide aging trends, is designed to result in expanded access, affordability, and opportunity by reducing transfer barriers, improving economies of scale, and creating a regional focus that will better meet Wisconsin's workforce needs.

I hope that this information is useful. Please contact me with any questions or comments.